

**REMARKS**

Claims 11 is canceled. Claims 7, 8 and 10 are withdrawn from consideration. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of canceled claim 11. It is submitted that claim 1 is now allowable since the claim presently includes the subject matter of claim 11 which the Examiner has indicated in the Office Action of August 13, 2003 to be allowable. In addition, claims 2-6 and 9 are allowable since the claims now depend from claim 1.

**35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph Rejections**

On page 2 of the Office Action, claim 2 is rejected on the grounds that the claim is indefinite because the claim is allegedly dependent on itself. It is respectfully submitted that claim 2 in its present form is proper, as the claim was properly amended such that it depends from claim 1 in the Amendment of June 17, 2003. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

**Comments on Reasons for Allowance**

In paragraph 11 which bridges pages 7 and 8 of the Office Action under the section heading for Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner states "the prior art does suggest forming a strike plating of copper on the surface of the initial copper film formed in claim 1 prior to the immersion of the substrate in the plating promoter-containing solution". It is submitted that the Examiner intended to state that the prior art does not suggest forming a strike plating of copper on the surface of the initial copper film formed in claim 1 prior to the immersion of the substrate in the plating promoter-containing solution. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner correct the statement in the response to this amendment.

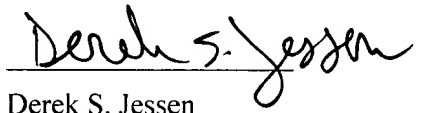
**CONCLUSION**

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants' present invention, as recited in the amended claims now more clearly and particularly, is patentable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections in this case is hereby respectfully requested.

If further matters remain in connection with this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned representative to resolve them.

Respectfully submitted,

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